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Amesbury Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1941

Mr. Chairman Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 22nd Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 2604 dated March 24th, 1942.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

18 Victoria Road, Salisbury. Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Census 1931 : 16,883.
Population—Estimated Mid. 1941—15,280
Area, 63,464 Acres
Rateable Value : £123,636
Sum represented by Penny Rate : £523 7 6
Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1941 : 3,217.

Births, 1941.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Live	204	184	388	(21 Illegitimate)
Still	7	7	14	(0 Illegitimate)

Birth Rate, 1941.		England and Wales	
Live	25.3	Live	14.2
Still	0.91	Still	0.51

Birth Rate Average last 10 years 19.4
England and Wales ,, ,, 10 ,, 14.7
Deaths : Males, 82. Females 50. Total, 132.

Death Rate (1941) 8.2 Average last 10 years 9.6
England and Wales ,, 12.9 ,, . ,, 10 ,, 12.3

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 8 Females 7. Total, 15.
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) 38.4 (1941)
England and Wales 59.0 ,,
Infantile Mortality Average last 10 years 39.5 ,,
England and Wales ,, ,, 10 ,, 58.6 ,,

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease.	Total Cases notified		Cases admitted to Hospital.		Total deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	32	(12 Mil).	18		0
Diphtheria ...	26	(5 Mil).	26	(5 Mil).	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	4		2		0
Pneumonia ...	1		0		0
Erysipelas ...	3		0		0
Measles	49	(26 Mil).	26	(26 Mil).	0
Whooping Cough	6		1		0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	5	(2 Mil).	5	(2 Mil).	1
Poliomyelitis	3	(Mil).	3	(Mil).	0
Paratyphoid B.	1		0		0

Scarlet Fever. Of the 32 cases, 12 were Military, and of the remaining 20, 12 were at Durrington and Bulford, 4 at Amesbury, 3 at Wilsford and Woodford, and one at Hurdcott. They were fairly evenly distributed during the year.

Diphtheria. All the 26 cases, except two, arose in Durrington, Bulford and Amesbury. None of these died. The two deaths given by the Registrar General were not notified to me, one arising in the City and the other was notified after death, and is not included in the 26.

Puerperal Pyrexia. Of the four cases notified one was admitted to the Isolation Hospital, and one to the Infirmary. One case died.

Pneumonia. Only one case was notified to me and this case recovered. The Registrar General gives seven deaths, but of these only 3 were of notifiable varieties, and their ages were 79, 81 and 75, so it may be presumed that this disease was scarce in the district during the year.

Erysipelas. Only three cases were notified and call for no comment.

Measles and Whooping Cough. The forty-nine cases of the former and 6 of the latter do not, I think, give a very accurate return of the actual cases in the district during the year. The death from measles was an inward transferable one, while two of the notified whooping cough cases died. The Registrar gives three deaths, but I can only account for two.

Poliomyelitis. All three cases were notified by the Military and were all adult soldiers.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever. Only five cases were notified, and, of these, two were in soldiers, one of the three civilian cases died. All were treated in Hospital.

Paratyphoid, B. One case was notified which was a mild case and recovered, it was nursed at home and no cause was discovered.

Tuberculosis. 16 fresh cases among civilians were notified and six deaths registered during the year. Of the sixteen fresh cases, 6 were transfers due to the war, and one was a discharged soldier.

The Notifications were :—

Male Pulm.	1	between	25–35	1	between	45–55
Female Pulm.	1	,,	15–20	1	,,	20–25
	2	,,	25–35	1	,,	35–45
	1	,,	55–65			
M. Non Pulm.	3	,,	5–10	1	,,	10–15
	1	,,	15–20			
F. Non Pulm.	2	,,	1– 5	1	,,	55–65

Deaths were :—

Male Pulm.	1	between	35–45	1	between	45–55
Female Pulm.	1	,,	20–25			
M. Non Pulm.	1	under	1	1	,,	5–10
	1	between	20–25			

Immunisation Against Diphtheria. At the end of 1940 the Ministry of Health started a campaign for the mass immunisation of children between the ages of one year and 15 against diptheria and the Council joined in the effort. During the year 435 children under 5 years of age and 1633 between 5 and 15 were immunised in the District.

The above figures worked out as far as could be ascertained that 24.1% of the children under five were done and 58% of those between 5 and 15.

This only gives an approximate figure as it does not take into account all those who were done privately or those who had been done before coming to the District.

The above figures have been brought up to 473 under 5 and 1643 over five to June 30th, 1942, and the work is continuing.

WATER SUPPLY.

Amesbury Parish. The increased population in the Parish and the heavier consumption by the R.A.F. Station at Boscombe Down have caused considerable overworking of the pumping plant. The yield from the borehole, being less than the capacity of the two pumps during the summer months, also caused some anxiety. A second borehole was sunk early in the year, and a siphon installed to the first borehole. It was decided to instal another 3in. pump, together with the necessary extensions to the pumphouse, but little of this work had been completed by the end of the year. A chlorinating plant has been installed.

There were no extensions to the mains during 1941.

Bulford and Durrington Parishes. The joint scheme for these two parishes has been in operation since November, 1943, and is very satisfactory. A chlorinating plant has been installed.

Shrewton. This scheme which has been in operation since June, 1939 is satisfactory.

Frequent **bacteriological examination** of all three waters have been made and show them to be pure waters.

Cholderton Parish. This parish is supplied by the Cholderton Water Company. The works are situated in the Andover Rural District. There appears to be an adequate supply of water with storage amounting to approxiamtely 500,000 gallons.

Tilshead Parish. The supply to this village consists of a 1in. Service taken from a nearby W.D. camp. Three further stand-pipes were installed during the year, bringing the total serving the village to five.

Private supplies exist in the smaller parishes of Lake and Durnford.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Amesbury. The increased population of Amesbury led to the overloading of the Disposal Plant. During the year, the Council's Consulting Engineers designed extensions to the Works including a third filter bed, and these were put in hand towards the end of the year. The sewer in Earls Court Road was extended to serve the R.A.F. station at Boscombe Down.

Durrington and Bulford. It has not been possible to proceed with a sewerage scheme for these parishes and the unsatisfactory conditions in these parishes remain. It is however hoped to utilize the works completed at Ratfyn by the War Department as soon as conditions permit.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Council possesses an up-to-date three-cell destructor plant, and collection of salvage and refuse is made weekly in the larger villages, and fortnightly in the smaller ones, by means of two motor vehicles.

Collection of night soil is still carried out once weekly in the parishes of Bulford and Durrington.

I regret that I am unable in this report to include the usual table of the Sanitory Inspection of the district, and the figures in connection with Milk and Dairies, Meat and Other Foods, but during this year the Sanitary Inspector left and I was unable, after repeated applications, to get any returns from him, and it has been impossible to work out with any accuracy any figures he has left behind.

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All Causes	82	50
Typhoid and Paratyphoid		
Cerebrospinal Fever ..	1	
Scarlet Fever .. .		
Whooping Cough ..	2	1
Diphtheria	1	1
Tuberc. of Respir. syst. ..	2	1
Other form of Tuberc.	3	
Syphilitic Diseases ..		
Influenza	1	2
Measles		1
Ac. Polio-myelitis and Enceph.		
Ac. Inf. Enceph.		
Cancer of b. cav; and oesoph (M.) uterus (F)		1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	3	2
Cancer of breast ..		2
Cancer of all other sites ..	9	3
Diabetes	2	1
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	5	6
Heart disease	21	10
Other dis. of circ. syst. ..	1	
Bronchitis	1	1
Pneumonia	5	1
Other Resp. diseases ..	1	1
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum		
Diarrhœa under two years		1

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
Appendicitis	1	
Other digest. diseases ..	3	2
Nephritis	1	1
Puerp. and postabort. sepsis		1
Other maternal causes ..		
Premature birth . ..	2	1
Cong. malf. birth inj. Inf. dis.	2	3
Suicide	1	
Road Traffic Act	4	1
Other violent causes ..		1
All other causes ..	10	4
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
Total	8	7
Legitimate	7	7
Illegitimate	1	
Live Births		
For Birth-rate		
Total	204	184
Legitimate	196	171
Illegitimate	8	13
For Inf. Mort.-rate ..		
Total	203	187
Legitimate	195	174
Illegitimate	8	13
Stillbirths		
Total	7	7
Legitimate	7	7
Illegitimate		
Population	15,280	